



## DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

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January 31, 2007

The Honorable Michael Meyer Von Bremen  
State Senator  
State Capitol, Room 121-F  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: State Auditor's Certification  
Senate Bill (LC 21 9211)

Dear Senator Meyer Von Bremen:

This bill would amend provisions relating to retirement benefits for certain members of the Employees' Retirement System. Specifically, this bill would affect members who are in service in the Uniform Division of the Department of Public Safety as an officer, certain sworn law enforcement officers of the Department of Natural Resources, and officers or agents of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. If this legislation is enacted, such members would be authorized to retire at 55 years of age with at least 10 years of creditable service or with 25 years of creditable service, regardless of age.

This bill would also provide for an increased benefit for such members who elect to contribute two percent of their earnable compensation to the System, in addition to the contributions currently required. Upon retirement, such members would be entitled to receive a monthly retirement benefit equal to three percent of their highest average compensation for each year of creditable service, not to exceed 85 percent in total. The current benefit is two percent for each year of creditable service.

Members wishing to be covered under this Code Section would be required to make an application to the board of trustees by December 31, 2008, or within three months after first or again becoming a member. Once such election is made, it shall be irrevocable.

This is to certify that this is a fiscal retirement bill as defined in the Public Retirement Systems Standards Law.

Respectfully,

/s/ Russell W. Hinton  
State Auditor